



Meet our Global Grant Scholarship Students - Give Today!

We've been sharing stories about our Global Grant scholarship and our students. Now, we share a video about our scholarship initiative. Click the image below to find out more on our "Giving" webpage!



Become involved with our program

To donate to our IAFS Global Grants program, which makes possible the study abroad experiences of our students, please click here:

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To donate to the IAFS Gift Fund, please click here:

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First Draft Denver & Spotlight on Heidi McKelrath

First Draft Denver was the spot for our November alumni meet-up. The group met with IAFS Director Tom Zeiler to catch up on world affairs and program happenings. One of our alums joining in was Heidi McKelrath ('87). She currently resides in the Greater Denver area and works for the City of Sheridan as a Tax Administrator.

Since graduating from CU-Boulder, McKelrath has followed development in global relations, community engagement, and renewable energy. "More than



anything, I enjoy having conversations with people about international travel, current events, and life," shares McKelrath, "And, coming to these events provides me with an opportunity to meet fellow alumni and have fascinating conversations."

Community Notes

Congratulations to the [CU Model United Nations team](#), recognized with six awards at the Fall 2015 National Model United Nations Washington, D.C. Conference. This is a new record for CU Model UN!

IAFS faculty committee member, [John O'Loughlin](#), is the first foreigner in more than a century to win a gold medal from the Russian Geographical Society. Congratulations!

Villagomez-Tapia Connects with Local Children in Legon, Ghana

Macarena Villagomez-Tapia ('17) set her sights on studying abroad during her junior year in Legon, Ghana. After she was accepted into the CIEE Ghana: Legon Arts & Sciences program, she received a Global Grant scholarship from IAFS. Below are two updates from Villagomez-Tapia while abroad:

September 2015:

I have been in Ghana for four weeks already! Classes have started up, and I am excited about all my courses: three political science courses, one art history course, and a local language course. I also have an internship at Kisseman Children's Foundation, where I will teach various lessons to local children. The students are outgoing, full of energy, and I can't wait to start!

People here in Ghana are kind and helpful, and the food is incredibly spicy - I love it! Also the fruit is AMAZING! I never knew pineapple was not a bright yellow but more of a white color. This past weekend a couple of students and I embarked on our first travel to Nzulezo, "the city on stilts." The village was small but the location was beautiful. I also recently went to the Chale Wote Festival, which is an incredible, huge art festival in Accra, Ghana.



November 2015:

I cannot believe how fast time is going by! November marks my last month here in Ghana, and I cannot believe it. I feel as if now I'm adjusting to living in Ghana, but just around the corner, it will be time to say goodbye to everyone. For the past month, I've primarily focused on my studies, and have bonded with my roommate and other local students.

This past month, the University of Ghana hosted the World Bank Group for an event. I was able to hear Dr. Jim Yong Kim, President of the World Bank Group, speak about ending poverty in Africa and promoting development. It is one thing to hear about development problems in the news, and it's another thing to see firsthand a community facing issues such as power or water outages. Listening to the World Bank's action plan for Africa gives me high hopes that development issues will gain necessary worldwide attention.